Special Cell for Hilly and Backward Areas

6679. SHRI. SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a special cell in the Planning Commission for hilly and backward areas;

(b) if so,the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have laid down any criteria for allocation of additional funds for development of hilly and backward areas; and

(d) if so,the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI. H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d) For the purpose of Planning Hill Areas and Backward Areas are deemed to be areas needing special programmes. Development of backward areas within a State is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. One of the functions of the Multi Level Planning Division of the planning Commission is its advisory role to the States for development of backward areas.These areas had been identified from time to time both by the Centre and the States consistent with the choice of selected indicators of backwardness or criteria adopted for "Special problem Area".

For the development of backward areas/ removal of regional imbalances in the States,Central Government help State Government to develop those areas through mechanism of (a) transfer of resources under Gadgil Formula,(b)devolution of non-plan resources by the Finance Commission, and (c)Special Area Programmes. The resources transferred from the Centre to the States for meeting their plan outlays as well as non-plan transfer of resources is effected keeping in view the variations in the levels of development among the States, in such a way that relatively larger resources are made available to the economically less developed States as compared to other States.

Hill areas and backward areas receive special attention in the Planning Commission. Under Hill Areas Development Programmes (HADP) which is in operation since 1974-75, special Central Assistance is provided to Designated Hill Areas (DHAS) in UP and West Bengal and to the Western Ghats comprising 163 talukas spread over five States viz., Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala,Tamil Nadu and Goa. The amount set apart under the Programme is distributed among the concerned States as special Central Assistance which is an additive to the State Plans. Special Central Assistance for HADP is distributed between Designated Hill Areas (DHA) and Western Ghats development Programme in the ratio of 6.47:1.

For inter-sensallocation among the DHA areas, equal weightage is given to area and population, i.e. 1:1 is given. For Western Ghats, the weightages are: 75 per cent for area and 25 per cent for population. Special Central Assistance under the programmes given as 90% grant and 10% as loan.

Special attention was also paid to industrial backwardness. Identification of areas backward in industrial development was done on an uniform basis for the entire country. Three schemes were operated to take care of industrial backwardness. However, identification of backward areas or the entire country on a uniform basis has been done only in the case of areas backward in industrial development. The scheme for industrial backwardness was introduced inter-alia as a measure for dispersal of industries. No-industry district and backward

areas were identified. For the development of industrially backward areas three schemes of assistance were operated. These were central investment subsidy scheme, transport subsidy scheme and central assistance for infrastructural development in no-industry districts. Since june,1988, a new scheme of setting of 100 growth centres throughout the country to attract industries to backward areas which would be endowed with infrastructural facilities at par with the best available in the country has been introduced.

No change in criteria for allocation of additional funds for development of hilly and backward areas under contemplation.

Edible Oil supplied to Vanaspati Manufacturers

6680. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a)whether due to short supply of edible oils to the Vanaspati manufacturers, the production of Vanaspati has decreased; and

(b) the quantity allotted to the Vanaspati manufacturers during the current year upto July 31, 1991 as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The production of vanaspati appears to have declined due to limited availability of cheaper, non-traditional and minor oils for the manufacture of vanaspati as also higher prices of this product vis-a-vis refined liquid oils.

(b) Nil in the aforesaid periods.

Funding of Development Projects In Computer Science and Sanskrit

6681. SHRI RAM KAPSSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of development projects have been funded in the area of computer science and Sanskrit by various technical departments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c)the mechanism of their coordination and monitoring;

(d) whether the monitoring committee is same for all the projects;

(e) the mechanism to evaluate results of projects funded by the different departments to suggest interaction of technologies and to ensure effective interdepartmental coordination and monitoring of the projects; and

(f) the manner in which sponsoring technical departments provide technical support in initial selection and installation of computing facilities and in organising computer orientation programmes in Sanskrit Institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION (SHRIMATI MARGART ALVA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A number of development projects have been initiated in the area of computerand Sanskrit by the Department of Electronics and the Ministry of Science and Technology. The details of the projects are given in the attached statement.

(c) The projects are being monitored through periodic reports and by specific monitoring and coordination committees twice or thrice a year. The coordination of the projects funded by the Department of Electronics is done by the Department itself. The coordination of the projects funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology is done by the National Institute of Science and Technology Development Studies (NISTADS).